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9 Skindivers, Missionary Fly From Cuba To Florida

CPYRGHT

Miami, Fla., April 9. — Nine American adventurers and a California missionary, pale and thin from solitary confinement in Cuban prisons, were flown to Florida today after being cleared of suspicion as agents of the United States Central Intelligence Agency.

James B. Donovan, New York lawyer who negotiated with the Cuban Prime Minister, Fidel Castro, for the release of the adventurers, flew back with them.

His next trip to Cuba, Donovan said, will be to secure the release of 22 or 23 other Americans still held in various Cuban prisons. He was optimistic about the prospects of securing their freedom.

The missionary arriving today at Homestead Air Force Base, the Rev. Floyd C. Woodworth, of Arcadia, Cal., ducked questioning by newsmen. He appeared tired as he stepped from a twin-engine plane.

Held Incommunicado

Mr. Woodworth, who headed the Assembly of God Mission in Havana, was arrested and held incommunicado for twenty days after Castro assailed American religious groups still on the island as counter-revolutionary and employees of the CIA.

Woodworth's wife and two children and some other missionaries were detained by the Cuban Government and reached Miami last week aboard a Red Cross flight.

The other nine Americans had

sailed from Florida last January on what they variously described as a fishing, lobstering, skin diving and treasure hunting expedition which was to carry them as far as the Dominican Republic.

Capt. Jack W. Browne, of Miami, said the 100-foot converted buoy tender lost its rudder in Lower Bahaman waters and later sank in high seas. Browne, his partner, Robert C. Moran, of Lockport, N.Y., and their seven crewmen jumped into a 26-foot utility boat and drifted four days until they washed ashore near Camaguey, 300 miles southeast of Havana.

Browne said, "The Cubans figured we were CIA agents. Anyone arriving in Cuba goes to G-2. We were taken to the G-2 headquarters in Havana in cars.

Tried To Convert Them

They tried to convert my boys to communism. We were kept in individual cells. There were no windows, just louvered doors."

Browne said the group was placed together in one cell and given much better treatment during the past three weeks. He attributed this to efforts on their behalf by Donovan.

"About 4 o'clock this morning a guard offered me some coffee," Browne said. "If he offered me coffee, I figured Donovan was near."

The captain said the Americans were informed a short time later they would be released.